

I support media diversity

Re: Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

While there may be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited and less localized. Case in point, when many media consumers don't even realize that these serious regulation issues are even being reviewed.

Informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation and is also dwindling in an advertising-driven media. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised even further.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

David Cohen